

6640/66050

to place the application in idiomatic English, and the claims are amended to place them in better condition for examination.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jay H. Maioli".

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as follows:

--An information processing apparatus that executes processing of a message transmitted among a plurality of sites connected [to one another] via a network [can be provided]. The information processing apparatus [comprises] includes a message reception part that receives a message to [thereby] execute a prescribed piece of reception processing, a rule accumulation part for accumulating rules [therein] to execute message processing, a message conversion part for executing conversion processing of a message according to the rules accumulated in [said] the rule accumulation part, and a message transmission part for executing a prescribed piece of transmission processing of the post-conversion message.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 have been amended as follows:

--1. (Amended) An information processing apparatus for processing a transmission message among a plurality of sites [that are] connected [to one another] via a network, the apparatus comprising:

a message reception part that receives a message to [thereby] execute a prescribed piece of reception processing;

a rule accumulation part that accumulates [therein] a plurality of rules for executing message processing;

a message conversion part that executes message conversion processing according to the plurality of rules [that have been] accumulated in [said] the rule accumulation part; and

a message transmission part that executes a prescribed piece of transmission processing of the [post-conversion] converted message.

--2. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [in case] when no suitable rules exist in [said] the rule accumulation part[, it further includes] a part that starts a corresponding application to [thereby] execute the message conversion processing is included.

--3. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [said] the message conversion part converts the message into a prescribed format according to a transmission origin of the message [and/or the] and contents of the message.

--4. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [said] the message conversion part specifies [the] a transmission destination of the message according to a transmission origin of the message [and/or the]

and contents of the message.

--5. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [said] the message conversion part performs automatic protocol conversion according to [the] a message transmission destination [that has been] specified according to [the] a transmission origin of the message [and/or the] and contents of the message.

--6. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [said] the message conversion part executes encryption processing that corresponds to [the] a message transmission destination that is specified according to [the] a transmission origin of the message [and/or the] and contents of the message.

--7. (Amended) An information processing apparatus for processing a transmission message among a plurality of sites [that are] connected [to one another] via a network, the apparatus comprising:

a message broker that commits to an application processing of data that becomes necessary when message conversion is performed among the [respective] plurality of sites;

a message translator that [in response to the arrival of the field serving as a trigger in a message format] performs mutual conversion between [the] message formats

according to a prescribed conditional sentence in response to an arrival of a field serving as a trigger in a message format;

a message router that [according to a prescribed piece of identification information contained in a message] adds a destination address to the message according to a prescribed piece of identification information contained in the message;

a B2B connector that provides a message exchange interface between [the] a system and a site outside the system; and

a gateway that provides a local message exchange interface between the system and a local site inside the system.

--8. (Amended) An information processing method for processing a transmission message among a plurality of sites [that are] connected [to one another] via a network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message to [thereby] execute a prescribed piece of reception processing;

accumulating a plurality of rules [therein] for executing pieces of message processing;

executing message conversion processing according to the plurality of rules accumulated by [said] the accumulating step [of accumulating rules]; and

executing a prescribed piece of transmission processing of the [post-conversion] converted message.

--9. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 8, further [including] comprising the step of:

[a step that starts] starting a corresponding application to [thereby] execute message conversion processing [in case] when no suitable rules are accumulated [by accumulating rules].

--10. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 8, wherein in the message conversion processing the message is converted into a prescribed format according to [the] a transmission origin of the message [and/or the] and contents of the message.

--11. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 8, wherein in the message conversion processing a message transmission destination is specified according to [the] a transmission origin of the message [and/or the] and contents of the message.

--12. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 8, wherein in the message conversion processing automatic protocol conversion is performed in correspondence with [the] a message transmission destination [that has been] specified according to [the] a transmission origin of the message [and/or the] and contents of the message.

--13. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 8, wherein in the message conversion processing encryption processing is executed in correspondence with [the] a message transmission destination [that has been] specified according to [the] a transmission origin of the message [and/or the] and contents of the message.

--14. (Amended) An information processing method for processing a transmission message among a plurality of sites [that are] connected [to one another] via a network, the method comprising the steps of:

[a message brokering step that commits] committing to an application processing of data that becomes necessary when message conversion is performed among the respective sites;

[a message translating step that] performing mutual conversion between message formats according to a prescribed conditional sentence in response to [the] an arrival of [the] a field serving as a trigger in a message format [performs mutual conversion between the message formats according to a prescribed conditional sentence];

[a message routing step that] adding a destination address to the message according to a prescribed piece of identification information contained in the message [adds a destination address to the message];

[a B2B connecting step that provides] providing a message exchange interface between [the] a system and a site outside the system; and

[a mutual connection step that provides] providing a message exchange interface between the system and a local site inside the system.

--15. (Amended) A network system including a plurality of sites each two of which are connected [to each other] via a communication network, wherein message exchange between arbitrary sites [are] is controlled by a prescribed server, and [wherein] the network system[,] as its interior processing parts on [said] the prescribed server, the network system [comprises] comprising:

a message reception part that receives a message to [thereby] execute a prescribed piece of reception processing;

a rule accumulation part that accumulates a plurality of rules [therein] for executing pieces of message processing;

a message conversion part that executes message conversion processing according to the plurality of rules accumulated in [said] the rule accumulation part [executes message conversion processing]; and

a message transmission part that executes a prescribed piece of transmission processing of the [post-conversion] converted message.

--16. (Amended) The network system according to claim 15, [wherein it] further [includes] comprising a part that [in case no suitable rules exist in the rule accumulation part] starts a corresponding application on the prescribed server to

[thereby] execute message conversion processing when no suitable rules exist in the rule accumulation part.

--17. (Amended) The network system according to claim 15, wherein [said] the message conversion part converts the message into a prescribed format according to [the] a transmission origin of the message [and/or the] and contents of the message.

--18. (Amended) The network system according to claim 15, wherein [said] the message conversion part specifies a message transmission destination according to [the] a transmission origin of the message [and/or the] and contents of the message.

--19. (Amended) The network system according to claim 15, wherein [said] the message conversion part performs automatic protocol conversion according to [the] a message transmission destination [that has been] specified according to [the] a transmission origin of the message [and/or the] and contents of the message.

--20. (Amended) The network system according to claim 15, wherein [said] the message conversion part performs encryption processing in correspondence with [the] a message transmission destination [that has been] specified according to [the] a transmission origin of the message [and/or the] and

contents of the message.

--21. (Amended) A network system including a plurality of sites each two of which are connected [to each other] via a communication network, wherein message exchange between arbitrary sites is controlled by a prescribed server, and [wherein] the network system[,] as its interior processing parts on [said] the prescribed server, the network system [comprises] comprising:

a message broker that commits to a prescribed application on the server processing of data that becomes necessary when message conversion is performed between the plurality of sites;

a message translator that [in response to the arrival of the field serving as a trigger in a message format] performs mutual exchange between the message formats according to a prescribed conditional sentence in response to an arrival of a field serving as a trigger in a message format;

a message router that [according to a prescribed piece of identification information contained in a message] adds a destination address to the message according to a prescribed piece of identification information contained in the message;

a B2B connector that provides a message exchange interface between [the] a system and a site outside the system; and

a gateway that provides [a] the message exchange interface between the system and a local site inside the

system.

--22. (Amended) A recording medium having [physically] stored in a computer-readable form [a] computer software [that has been] described so that [the] processing of a transmission message among a plurality of sites connected [to one another] via a network [may be] is executed on a computer system, [wherein] the computer software [comprises] comprising the steps of:

[a message reception step that receives] receiving a message to [thereby] execute a prescribed piece of reception processing;

[a rule accumulation step that accumulates] accumulating a plurality of rules [therein] for executing the message processing;

[a message conversion step that] executing message conversion processing according to a corresponding one of the plurality of rules accumulated by the rule accumulation step [executes message conversion processing]; and

[a message transmission step that executes] executing a prescribed piece of transmission processing of the [post-conversion] converted message.

--23. (Amended) A computer program for executing on a computer system [the] processing of a transmission message among a plurality of sites connected [to one another] via a network,

comprising:

a message reception routine that receives a message to [thereby] execute a prescribed piece of reception processing;

a rule accumulation routine that accumulates a plurality of rules [therein] for executing the message processing;

a message conversion routine that executes message conversion processing according to a corresponding one of the plurality of rules accumulated by said rule accumulation [step executes message conversion processing] routine; and

a message transmission routine that executes a prescribed piece of transmission processing of the [post-conversion] converted message.

--24. (Amended) An information processing apparatus for processing a signal including message information, the apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving [said] the signal to [thereby] execute a prescribed piece of reception processing;

accumulating means for accumulating a plurality of rules [therein, which must be] used for processing message information included in [said] the received signal;

executing means for executing [said] the message information conversion processing using the plurality of rules accumulated by [said rule] the accumulation means; and

post-conversion executing means for executing a prescribed piece of transmission processing of [said

post-conversion] the converted message information.

--25. (Amended) An information processing method for processing a signal including message information, comprising the steps [for] of:

receiving [said] the signal to [thereby] execute a prescribed piece of reception processing [thereof];

accumulating a plurality of rules [in a rule accumulation part, which must be] used for processing message information included in [said] the received signal in a rule accumulation part;

executing conversion processing of [said] the message information using the plurality of rules accumulated in [said] the rule accumulation part; and

executing a prescribed piece of reception processing of [said post-conversion] the converted message information.--